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Miller, Russell Hale, 1905-1968 (MSS 498)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 498 MILLER, Russell Hale, 1905-1968

1 box. 10 folders. 28 items. 1956-1965, n.d. Typescripts, photocopies.

SC2014.3.78

BIOGRAPHY

Russell Hale Miller was born on 4 July 1905 in Armory, Mississippi. He received bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from the University of Mississippi, then came to Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1934 to study at the Bowling Green Business University. After less than a year as a student, Miller was appointed head of the Business University's college secretarial department. Miller also became involved with the Bowling Green Players Guild as a producer and director of its amateur theater productions.

In 1942, Miller entered the U.S. Army, where he served in military intelligence, then overseas as a special service officer responsible for staging shows for GIs in Africa. Discharged in 1946 with the rank of captain, Miller returned to the Business University. In 1947, he joined the faculty of Western Kentucky State Teachers College (now WKU) to teach play production, speech and freshman English. In 1954-1955, Miller took a leave of absence for graduate study at Columbia University, where he completed the course requirements for the Ed. D. degree. He completed his doctoral dissertation, a drama titled "Giants Lie Sleeping," in 1963.

While at WKU, Miller was the driving force behind both campus theatrical productions and local community theater. A demanding professional with a single-minded devotion to his craft, he was feared but also respected by his students. He was a founder and managing director of the Bowling Green Alley Playhouse and director of the Western Players Guild. He also staged his own plays, which included "This Fair Land" for the Allen County, Kentucky Sesquicentennial and "Shakertown Revisited," an outdoor drama for the annual Shaker Festival at Auburn, Kentucky. First staged in 1962, "Shakertown Revisited" was produced and directed by Miller until his death.

Russell Miller died in Nashville, Tennessee on 24 November 1968 and was buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Armory, Mississippi. In 1969, the theater in WKU's Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center was named the Russell H. Miller Theatre in his honor.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of working copies of scripts for two plays written by Russell Miller: "This Fair Land," Miller's historical drama about early Kentucky; and "Shakertown," Miller's historical drama about the South Union, Kentucky Shakers. Also included are working copies of scripts for two plays produced by Miller, "The Emperor's New Clothes," a children's play by Herbert Kanzell based on the Chinese legend (Folder 7); and "The Boor" a one-act comedy by Anton Chekhov (Folder 10). Scripts for "This Fair Land" (Folders 2-6) and "Shakertown" (Folders 8, 9) are different versions of working copies and include edits and handwritten notations.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Miller, Russell Hale	1955-1965	28 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Scripts of "This Fair Land," scenes 1-8	1965	2 items
Folder 3	Scripts of "This Fair Land," scenes 1-9 (complete)	1965	2 items
Folder 4	Scripts of "This Fair Land," scenes 2 & 3	1965	4 items
Folder 5	Script of "This Fair Land," scenes 4 & 5	1965	4 items
Folder 6	Script of "This Fair land," scenes 6, 7 & 8	1965	7 items
Folder 7	Script of "The Emperor's New Clothes," by Herbert Kanzell	1955	3 items
Folder 8	Scripts of "Shakertown" (partial and complete)	1962	2 items
Folder 9	Scripts of "Shakertown" (partial and complete)	1962	2 items
Folder 10	Script of "The Boor" by Anton Chekhov	n.d.	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS MILLER, Russell Hale, 1955-1965
 498 1905-1968

Working copies of scripts for two plays, "This Fair Land" and "Shakertown" by Russell Miller, a faculty member of WKU's Department of Speech and Theater. Also includes working copies of "The Emperor's New Clothes" by Herbert Kanzell and "The Boor" by Anton Chekhov, two plays that were staged by Miller.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich, 1860-1904 – Relating to
 Children's theater – Bowling Green

Drama – Bowling Green

Kanzell, Herbert – Relating to
 Plays

Playwrights

Shakers – South Union – Relating to
 Theater – Allen County

Theater – Bowling Green

Western Players – Relating to

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 07/02/2014